



2125

In re Application of:

)  
: Examiner: E. L. Frank

)  
: Group Art Unit: 2125

)  
: Confirmation No.: 1497

)  
:  
) October 6, 2003  
: (Monday) DE

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Technology Center 2100

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application.

☒ **X** No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	25	MINUS	25	= 0	x \$9 \$18	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	3	= 0	x \$42 \$84	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$140/\$280						—
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00

☐ <sup>o</sup>Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ Charge \$\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 CFR 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ to cover the fee for a \_\_\_\_ month extension is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.

☒ Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

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03560.002982.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: E. L. Frank
Gen NAKAMURA	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2125
Application No.: 10/044,937	)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 1497
Filed: January 15, 2002	)	
	:	
For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING	)	October 6, 2003
APPARATUS	:	(Monday)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office  
Action dated September 4, 2003.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement among four  
groups of claims. Group I, claims 1-20, is drawn to a semiconductor manufacturing  
apparatus, and is classified in class 700, subclass 300; Group II, claims 21-23, is drawn to a  
semiconductor manufacturing method, and is classified in class 700, subclass 121; Group  
III, claim 24, is drawn to a network for communicating machine status, and is classified in  
class 702, subclass 188; and Group IV, claim 25, is drawn to a semiconductor  
manufacturing machine maintenance method, and is classified in class 702, subclass 183.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I, III and IV are related as product and process of use, and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification. These contentions are respectfully traversed. In short, Applicant submits that these inventions are not related as “product and process of use.”

Applicant further notes that the inventions of Groups I, II, III and IV are closely related in the field of semiconductor manufacture, and that a proper search of any of the claims would, of necessity, require a search of the others. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously, and that a duplicative search, with possibly inconsistent results, may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Applicant further submits that any nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to search an additional subclass or two, necessary to determine the art relevant to Applicant’s overall invention, is significantly outweighed by the public interest in not having to obtain and study several separate patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering Applicant’s invention. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of multiple applications, each consisting of generally the same disclosure, and each being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by different Examiners on different occasions. This places an unnecessary burden on both the Patent and Trademark Office and on Applicant.

In the interest of economy, for the Office, for the public-at-large and for Applicant, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1-20.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are also requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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